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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2253  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 9744  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 6329  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 2191  
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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3436

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 003171

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/17/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [AF](#) [IR](#) [PK](#) [JA](#)  
SUBJECT: JAPAN'S VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
RETURN OF AFGHAN REFUGEES

REF: STATE 118597

Classified By: Ambassador J. T. Schieffer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Japan's delegation to the November 19 International Conference on the Return and Reintegration of Afghan Refugees will be led by Ambassador in Charge of Afghanistan Assistance Coordination Masaki Okada, according to MOFA Second Middle East Division Afghanistan desk officer Shizuka Morita. (NOTE: Okada is new to his position, which he assumed on November 12, and does not appear to have any previous Afghanistan experience. Prior significant assignments include Chief of Protocol, Director General for Public and Cultural Affairs, and, most recently, Ambassador to Denmark, accredited to Lithuania as well. END NOTE.)

¶2. (C) According to Morita, the core elements of the statement Okada will make at the conference are the following:

-- Japan supports the efforts by the Afghan government to achieve the goals defined in the Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons Sector Strategy as a part of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

-- Japan will ask Pakistan and Iran for their cooperation in addressing Afghan refugee issues and, in particular, will call on them to renew their tripartite agreements with Afghanistan and the UNHCR.

-- The timelines in the Pakistan and Iran agreements should respect those set and called for in the ANDS.

-- Japan recognizes that Pakistan and Iran need assistance from the international community, and sees the UN Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Initiative as an effective attempt. Japan will study how it can take part in this initiative.  
SCHIEFFER